

# **NASA/NIH AGREEMENT**

## **TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1992**

**First, I want to thank Sen. Mikulski and Sen. Garn for inviting us here today. Sen. Garn is a long-time strong supporter of the space program.**

**Sen. Mikulski is also a strong supporter, because she understands how important investing in the future is to the health and economic well-being of Maryland, and indeed, all of America.**

**Dr. Healy, I'm honored to share the stage with you as we combine the strengths of our two organizations for the betterment of both.**

**For three decades, the rigors of space flight have pushed NASA to advance the bounds of medical knowledge for the protection of our astronauts' health.**

**And for an even longer time, the doctors of Bethesda have touched the lives of millions through the advanced treatment of disease and injury.**

**The explosion of biomedical research in the last 20 years -- with new techniques taking research down to the molecular level -- means even more fantastic breakthroughs are to come.**

**To push this life-saving research forward, it's clear that using the microgravity of space can speed this work along.**

**It's equally clear that to protect astronauts from the debilitating effects of long duration space flights, NASA needs the most up-to-date techniques and knowledge generated by experts on Earth.**

**That's why it makes plain common sense for the life science experts at NIH and NASA to form a partnership for progress.**

**NASA and NIH have cooperated in the past, such as last year, when the shuttle carried a Space Life Sciences lab.**

**With today's agreement, we will broaden that partnership. We want NIH to be able to take full advantage of the unparalleled research facilities aboard Space Station Freedom. Their researchers will be able to develop new experiments with gravity as a variable -- something impossible on Earth.**

**At the same time, NASA will work more closely with NIH in areas that relate to the physical changes that astronauts undergo: bone and muscle loss, balance and sensory changes, and cardiovascular changes.**

**In the end, we're all after the same things. We want new knowledge. We want better health. And we want it at a price we can afford. Through teamwork, we can avoid wasteful duplication of effort.**

**Every American taxpayer should be proud of this agreement. It signifies government at its best -- working together in new arrangements to spare no effort to improve the health and well-being of humanity.**

**So once again, thank you, Sen. Mikulski, Sen. Garn, and Dr. Healy. This is a great day for Maryland, and for America.**

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